

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

23

May 4, 2004

FROM: Patrick J. Mead, Interim Director
Department of Public Works - **Transportation**

SUBJECT: **NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR NIELSON ROAD IMPROVEMENT AND EXTENSION
PROJECT – PHELAN AREA**

RECOMMENDATION: 1) Adopt Notice of Determination and Mitigated Negative Declaration for construction of the Nielson Road Improvement and Extension Project in the Phelan area, and; 2) Direct the Clerk to file the Notice of Determination.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Nielson Road Improvement and Extension Project consists of the construction of a two-lane paved roadway between Malpaso Road and Beekley Road, placement of fill material, Joshua tree relocation, and installation of drainage culverts. This roadway will provide a missing link between the area schools along Sheep Creek Road and Beekley Road which is the main connection to State Highway 138. The anticipated date for approval of Plans & Specifications for this project is May 2004 and the scheduled commencement date of construction is July 2004.

An environmental Initial Study document for the proposed project was prepared in October 2003 by Lilburn Corp. in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. The proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project was circulated on December 1, 2003 to the responsible and trustee agencies, interested organizations and individuals for the 30-day comment period as specified in the CEQA Guidelines. No comments were received from any of the above listed parties. The specified mitigation measures and implementation of the mitigation monitoring and reporting program indicate that this project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

CEQA Guidelines require that Negative Declarations for County projects be adopted by the Board prior to the Board approving authority to initiate requests for construction bids.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY OTHERS: This item was reviewed by Chief Deputy County Counsel Charles S. Scolastico (387-5481) on January 21, 2004 and the County Administrative Office (Tom Forster, Administrative Analyst, 387-4635) on April 25, 2004.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: The estimated cost of this project is \$500,000 that includes survey, environmental, preliminary and final design, right-of-way appraisal and acquisition, and construction. The funding source for this project is Gas Tax monies which are available and included in the Fiscal Year 2003/2004 Transportation Budget (SAA-TRA-TRA-13 H13651). This action to adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration has no financial impact.

COST REDUCTION REVIEW: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this item and concurs with the Department's recommendation based on state environmental regulations and laws that require this action in order for the project to proceed.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): 1st

PRESENTER: Patrick J. Mead, 387-7906

Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors

23